

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 28 November 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
28 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Cyprus

The Turks early today tightened the screws again on the Greeks with a tough counterproposal to Mr. Vance's latest compromise formula. This came after a steady day and night of intensive study and consultation among Turkish leaders.

NATO Secretary General Brosio thinks the new Turkish conditions will be hard for the Greeks to accept, but that Athens would be well advised to do so, given the "very serious mood" in Ankara.

2. France

As we read De Gaulle's press conference, the most noteworthy thing was his sharper tone and the evidence that he is suffering from "hardening prejudices" on almost everything. He said nothing important that was really new. These were some of his points:

--His most aggressive statements were on French Canada. They were focused on resistance to US domination and on the ultimate "sovereignty" of French Canada. He seems bemused by the possibility of closer political ties between France and French Canada than any responsible French-Canadian leader anticipates.

--De Gaulle's principal reference to the US came in his treatment of the Middle East. The big-four solution he envisages is impossible, he reiterated, as long as the US is engaged in "the vile war it is conducting in Vietnam."

--He made a fleeting prophecy of a downward trend for the dollar in the wake of British devaluation.

--He flatly rejected British membership in the Common Market until Britain radically transforms itself into "one of the pillars of a European Europe."

3. Canada

The ax is falling on Canada's defense budget, and it will hurt. Some officials are considering a one-third cutback in Canada's forces in Europe. Defense Minister Cadieux told Parliament last week that he will bring up Canadian force reductions at the NATO meeting in Brussels next month.

4. Rumania

Governor Harriman arrived in Bucharest yesterday in the midst of considerable ferment over the regime's domestic policies. Party boss Ceausescu intends to impose a series of economic and administrative changes at a special party conference next week. He has set aside the intervening time for "public debate" on the issues.

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There are definite nationalistic ramifications in the proposed reforms; they will take Rumania further from the Soviet model. Ceausescu, who has already irritated the traditionalists by "de-Sovietizing" the constitution and other institutions, is obviously not afraid of continuing the process.

5. Pakistan

President Ayub takes his alliance with Turkey very seriously.

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Ankara radio has made several general references to Pakistani support for Turkey in the crisis.

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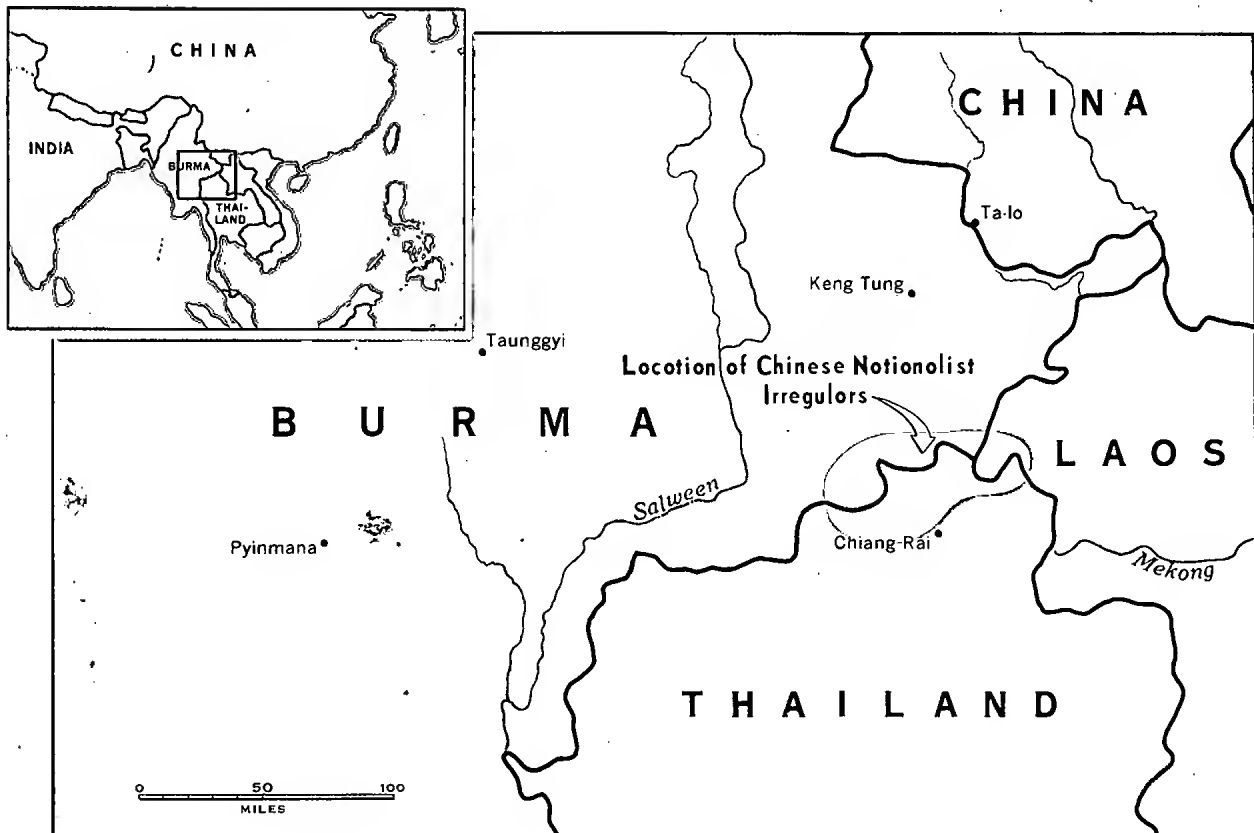
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6. Thailand

The perennial problem of the Chinese Nationalist irregulars is boiling up again in Southeast Asia.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Hanoi Comments on Delegation in Italy: North Vietnam's initial comment on its trade union delegation's current visit to Italy was contained in a 25 November broadcast. It claimed that the group had been cordially received by leaders of the Italian Communist Party "who reaffirmed its solidarity with the Vietnamese people." The broadcast also reported on the delegation's meeting with other leftist groups in various Italian cities and mentioned the donations received from them.

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Carmichael: Stokely finally left Tanzania late on Sunday. He told the local press on leaving that he was "going back to hell--the United States--via Europe."

Yesterday afternoon, Carmichael showed up in Sweden and made his way to the university town of Uppsala. He will apparently make a speech and a television appearance there.

From Sweden, Carmichael will probably go to Denmark.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi's Interest in US Elections: Hanoi continues to show keen interest in the forthcoming US presidential elections, but it is cautious in assessing evidence of anti-Administration sentiment. North Vietnamese commentary takes pains to show that the regime is not counting on the elections for a change in US policy, and to

stress that the war must be won by frustrating the achievement of US objectives in South Vietnam.

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This theme was taken up recently in Hanoi's army newspaper which commented approvingly on American antiwar sentiments, but asserted that North Vietnam does not overestimate "internal contradiction" in the US. The deciding factor for victory, said the paper, is to "change the balance of strength in our favor on the battlefield by beating the Americans and their allies, militarily and politically." Whatever the results of the US presidential elections, it went on, the Vietnam policy of the US Government "will not change fundamentally by itself."

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Hanoi on Dissent: The North Vietnamese have been quick to report recent actions protesting or criticizing US policy in Vietnam. A recent broadcast in English from Hanoi reported that 300 students and faculty of Yale University published a statement in the New Haven papers registering their refusal to be drafted for the war in Vietnam. The statement, according to the radio, condemned the war as "unjust, illegal, and immoral." The broadcast also reported an open letter from 14,000 members of the Democratic Party carried in the Los Angeles Times urging the President to

stop the bombing and the escalation of the war. The signers were reported as stating that they withdrew their support of the President and would devote all their energy to stopping the bloodshed in Vietnam.

A third letter, from a group of professors at the University of California at Berkeley published in the San Francisco Chronicle, calling on the US to stop "at once, definitively and without condition the bombing of the North," was also included in the broadcast. Finally, Hanoi reported a statement by former ambassador Galbraith asserting that "the American people did not support the war in Vietnam and that the US could not win this war." Galbraith was also quoted as urging the administration to stop "forthwith the bombing of the North and bring the troops home."

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US "Council of War": Hanoi has claimed that the recent meeting in Washington of senior US officials assigned to Vietnam was a "council of war" and that despite official silence on the gathering, President Johnson "stressed accelerating the ground war and the speeding up of the dispatch of additional troops so as to push the war to a new stage." This claim was contained in a Hanoi English language broadcast on 25 November which pointed to the increased January draft call as evidence of the intended "US escalation." The broadcast also pointed out that as the meeting was being held the US was actually experiencing "more serious defeats in the war" and that "ever fiercer popular opposition to the war at home" was confronting the "Johnson ruling group." In conclusion, the broadcast quoted Walter Lippmann's recent lament that "the US is going through the worst time in its whole life."

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Captured US Pilots: A recent Hanoi broadcast in English to US troops in South Vietnam described the "strange rendezvous" of US pilots in North Vietnamese prison camps. The broadcast included the recorded voices of some American pilots relating the details of their capture. The North Vietnamese announcer claimed that the US pilots long for an end to "Johnson's war," and he played songs with antiwar lyrics allegedly sung by the captured pilots.

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